LIFESTYLE / C4

Red at Makati Shangri-La reinvents menu: Think Open Ravioli of Sea Bass

NEWS / A2

Ombudsman orders filing of graft raps vs Nani Perez, wife in $2-M extortion case

WORLD / A20

Oil price surges to new record of $114 per barrel

WORLD / A20

Congo plane crash kills 33, hurts 80

Pope on 1st US visit; Bush gives unusual welcome

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Maryland—Pope Benedict XVI stepped onto US soil for the first time as pontiff, arriving to a presidential handshake and wild cheering only hours after he admitted that he was "deeply ashamed" of the clergy sex abuse scandal that has devastated the American church.

Benedict gave hundreds of spectators a two-handed wave on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) as he stepped off a special Alitalia airliner that brought

POPE A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, April 17, 2008 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 139 P18 online: www.inquirer.net

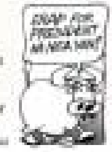
Rice bags kick off Erap 3-day birthday bash

By Jocelyn R. Uy

JOSEPH ESTRADA turns 71 on April 19, and his birthday wish is positively presidential: Food for all.

Tomorrow, the eve of his birthday, the self-

RICE A8



Abadilla 5 conviction affirmed

CA imposes life terms, no parole

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS AFFIRMED THE murder convictions of five men charged with killing then Ilocos Norte Vice Gov. Rolando Abadilla in an ambush 12 years ago, saying their identification by a lone witness was enough to uphold the guilty verdict.

The appellate court also said that even if the claims of torture by the "Abadilla 5"—Cesar Fortuna, Rameses de Jesus, Lenido Lumanog, Joel de Jesus and Augusto Santos—were true, this did not mean they were innocent, in light of the eyewitness account.

Citing the abolition of capital punishment, the court reduced the earlier death sentences imposed by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to reclusion perpetua (or up to 40 years in prison) with no possibility of parole.

Lumanog and Fortuna were found to have been the gunmen, and the three others the lookouts, in the killing.

But all five had said they were tortured by the police into admitting to the crime.

The communist Alex Boncayao Brigade had claimed responsibility for the killing and had supposedly turned over the watch of Abadilla, a former Philippine Constabulary colonel, which was allegedly

ABADILLA 5 A8

Lawyers laugh off man who claims to be the fugitive Faeldon

By Nikko Dizon and Alcuin Papa

A MAN CLAIMING TO BE A fugitive Magdalo leader linked Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan to the failed Oakwood mutiny of 2003 and expressed disappointment over the decision of his nine fellow officers to ask for a presidential pardon after they pleaded guilty to charges of committing coup d'etat.

The statements were made by the man, who claimed to be Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, in a phone interview with ABS-CBN News that aired on Tuesday night.

But Faeldon's lawyer yesterday said it was not the fugitive Magdalo leader who had granted the interview.

"It's not him. I don't want to attack the reporter or media outlet that aired the interview but that's not Captain Faeldon's style," said Trixie Cruz-Angeles in a phone interview.

Angeles' fellow Magdalo lawyer, Argee Guevarra, said that Trillanes, Lim, and other Magdalo leaders "burst out laughing" upon hearing the voice of the man who claimed to be Faeldon.

Guevarra said he watched

LAWYERS A8



FIRST TIMER Pope Benedict XVI steps on US soil for the first time as head of the Catholic Church on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila). US President Bush makes the unusual gesture of welcoming the Pope at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland outside Washington as he starts his six-day trip to the US. AP PHOTO

Legislated wage hike favored

By Norman Bordadora, TJ Burgonio and Jerome Aning

HOUSE LEADERS WILL DISCUSS proposals to raise wages through legislation just days after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the regional wage boards to convene and determine by how much to increase the minimum wage to help workers cope with rising fuel and food costs.

"I will meet informally with the chair and members of the House labor committee next week to discuss options on a wage increase to ease pressure on labor due to spiraling prices," Speaker Prospero Nograles told the Inquirer.

There are several bills seeking a wage increase, including one calling for a P125 raise in the daily minimum wage. In December 2006, the House approved a P125 across-the-board wage hike but this was recalled by the chamber due to a technicality.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the House committee on appropriations, said increases mandated by the regional wage boards were welcome but added that he favored Congress passing a legislated wage increase that would be uniform and more generous for all regions.

"That [legislated increase] is without prejudice to the increases that the wage boards will enact," Lagman said in a phone interview.

Sen. Francis Escudero also supports a legislated wage increase, saying that the wage boards were useless in setting the minimum pay as they had to

LEGISLATED A11

Rice before oil; Biazon seeks biofuels suspension

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

RICE FIRST BEFORE FUEL.

This, in essence, was what Sen. Rodolfo Biazon had in mind when he urged President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday to suspend the implementation of the Biofuels Law.

At the same time, Sen. Mar Roxas called on the government to declare a moratorium on the conversion of agricultural lands until the country is able to produce enough rice to meet demand.

Both senators warned that the government's failure to address not only the long-term goal of self-sufficiency in rice but, more importantly, the establishment of an efficient distribution system could spark food riots.

"A hungry man knows no law

RICE A4

'Public to panic' if NFA rice out of wet market

HOTLINE: 920-RICE

By Beverly T. Natividad

LOOKING FOR THE NEWEST NFA (National Food Authority) rice supplier or just raring to report a known rice hoarder in the neighborhood? Call the rice hotline. The number is 920-RICE (7423). Agriculture Undersecretary Jesus Emmanuel Paras said it would be ready to accept calls in two weeks.

As Filipinos continue to reel from the surge in rice prices brought about by a tight world supply, the Department of Agriculture thought to make its services easily accessible to the people.

Anyone can call the hotline for concerns that have "anything to do with rice," Paras told reporters.

HOTLINE A15

By Margaux C. Ortiz, Jerome Aning and Amy R. Remo

MALACAÑANG'S DECISION to pull out the government-subsidized rice selling for P18-25 a kilo from public markets in Metro Manila could cause the public to panic, an official of Caritas Manila, the Manila Archdiocese's social arm, said yesterday.

Fr. Anton Pascual, Caritas Manila executive director, said the pullout could lead people to think that the country was indeed suffering from a rice shortage.

"The move could result in false speculations and animosity among members of the general public," he said. "The more it (rice) is made available (to

PUBLIC A15



RICE BREAK With Tourism Secretary Ace Durano as her guide, President Arroyo savors the enchantments of a beach resort in General Luna, Siargao Island, where she was to spend last night. She hopped over to Siargao after monitoring rice distribution in Dinagat Island. CNNB.JPG

Pedal power to save dying Laguna lake

By Arlen R. Espinosa

LAKESHORE COMMUNITIES in Laguna are in for a first-of-its-kind summer activity—a pedal-power caravan on the 200-kilometer stretch around Laguna de Bay by some 1,000 riders and cycling advocates.

There are no prizes or personal recognition at stake in the activity scheduled on April 26-27 and tagged as "Laguna de BaKAY: Save Laguna Lake Bike Caravan."

Estimated by organizers to stretch more than a kilometer, the caravan is intended to call attention to the dismal state of the Philippines' biggest lake and one of its most important water

PEDAL A11

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2 | FOUR DIGIT | SUERTRES | MEGALOTTO 6/45

P5,094,923.40

Ombudsman OKs graft raps vs 'Nani'

Sandigan to try him for alleged $2-M extort attempt on Mark Jimenez

FORMER JUSTICE SECRETARY HERNANDO "Nani" Perez will be charged with graft before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly extorting $2 million from a former congressman in 2001, the Office of the Ombudsman has decided with finality.

WHAT'S INSIDE

PINOY CREW of luxury yacht home after release /A5

GMA NOW knows what it's like to 'follow up' /A7

OWNERS OF pre-need plans still waiting /A8

Flour supply assured, but price stability another matter



Filipinos number 88.6M according to latest census

Scrapping of automated polls urged

Teodoro belies transfer rumor

'Mamang Pulis' to join military raids

MNLF chief warns of terror



"Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

John F. Kennedy (1917 – 1963)
35th President of the United States of America

John F. Kennedy said it 47 years ago. It remains relevant to us, especially now that the country copes with various economic woes because of the global surge in prices of basic commodities. We can help. We can do many things for our country.

<u>This is why the COPW appeals to the following:</u>

- The government, from the top to the lowest levels of governance.
- The religious communities, Business Organizations, & civic organizations.

Working hand in hand, the government and these groups can help alleviate the plight of the poor as they are the hardest hit by the economic crisis.

The following are COPW's recommendations on current issues:

I. *The Price of NFA Rice must be pegged at P 18.25/kilo and sold directly to the poorest of the poor*

- In Metro Manila alone, there are 752,000 depressed families equivalent to 3 million persons. Therefore, any increase will further aggravate the present condition of their lives. To effectively implement this scheme, COPW suggests the following to be undertaken:

a) Conduct an inventory in all NFA rice warehouses to determine the country's rice stock and see if it is sufficient to provide for the needs of the poor.
b) Determine if there is sufficient NFA rice supply for the poor. Any EXCESS Rice Stocks can be sold to the general public who can afford to buy rice at higher prices. ***The sale of Excess NFA Rice stocks can generate income for NFA and still ensure no increase in the price of rice for the poor.***

- Government Agencies (i.e. Dept. of Agriculture, NFA, DILG, NBI & DOJ) must be vigilant enough to ensure the strict compliance and implementation of **PGMA's Three Phase Action Plans-**

1. Securing the Supply of Rice.
2. Ensuring Proper Distribution
3. Guaranteeing the Enforcement of Laws against corrupt rice traders and their cronies who hoard and/or illegally repack NFA rice for sale and sold at commercial prices.

COPW is presently working closely with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on its AHON Pamilyang Pinoy Program, specifically in Pasay City and Caloocan City.

1. **<u>HEALTH CARE</u> - P 6,000** per depressed family per year.
2. **<u>EDUCATION</u>** - ONLY 3 children per depressed family will be qualified at **P 6,000** per year.
3. **<u>RICE ALLOTMENT</u> - 7 KILOS OF RICE** will be sent to the homes of DSWD Validated Depressed Families weekly to ensure that they receive it and that they have food to eat.

COPW together with the DSWD will form an ***Independent Advisory & Monitoring Committee*** with other broad based organizations to ensure transparency and accountability and proper implementation of the ***AHON Pamilyang Pinoy Program.***

Initially, the program will address the basic needs of the poorest of the poor families, consisting of 825 depressed families out of 17,490 depressed families in Pasay City and 1,057 families out of 44,544 depressed families in Caloocan City. These numbers will soon be increased to reach DSWD's target of 1,500 Validated Depressed Families per city in the next 60 days.

The AHON Pamilyang Pinoy Program can be improved and even expanded to the rest of the depressed rural areas via an "ADOPT A BARANGAY PROGRAM", provided we all work hand in hand and get our act together towards a common goal of alleviating the living conditions of our less fortunate citizens.

II. Oil price must be published every Monday

COPW reiterates its request to the DOE to publish every Monday the prices of Oil Products.
We make this request because:

1. Three years after the enactment of the Oil Deregulation Law, Energy Secretary Camacho issued a circular requiring Oil Companies to notify the DOE on the details of oil adjustments, whether upwards or downwards at least **One Day in advance.**
2. The notices will show the actual inventories of the Oil Companies that will be the basis for determining if they have under-recoveries or over-recoveries on their oil prices, 60 to 90 days inventory for Refiners and 15 to 30 days inventory for Importers. Likewise, this will also determine if there is a need to increase local pump prices.
3. As for Oil Price Reductions, the same system applies. Again, Oil Companies are tasked to submit the same data to the DOE one-day in advance.

COPW is insistent in institutionalizing this reporting and disclosure process ***<u>to remedy the problem of perceived lack of transparency among the public on oil price adjustments</u>***. As it is now, the Oil Companies are quick to raise pump prices and yet slow when lowering them.

<u>The 12% VAT on Petroleum Products must be retained</u>

COPW has changed its earlier position to the Senate Committee on Trade to lower the VAT from 12% to 6% as proposed because this would cushion the impact of the food and energy crisis. The government can use the VAT proceeds to grant the Department of Agriculture a higher budget to subsidize the NFA rice, the LPG 11kg tank per household.

III. The public must be given subsidy on their LPG

COPW recommends a ***subsidy for POOR RESIDENTIAL USERS who consume NOT more than One (1) 11 kg tank per month*** equivalent to the 12% VAT which means a discount of P 45.40 from the current price of P 579.00 or P 529.50.

In identifying the ***POOR RESIDENTIAL USERS***, the list of the life-line customers of ***MERALCO*** may be the basis, whose electrically consumption does **NOT** exceed 100 kWh per month. This is approximately 1 million residential users or a subsidy of P 45.4 million a month or P 544. 8 million Annually. The subsidy can be funded from the collection of the VAT or from the royalties from Malampaya.

IV. WE SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE RATE BUT NOT ACROSS THE BOARD

COPW requests the Regional Wage Board to convene and to set the minimum wage depending on the cost of living in different regions & supports the move of the President for the regional wage boards to convene in the light of higher oil prices, rice, bread and other basic commodities. COPW also supports the position of the President to exempt minimum wage earners from paying income tax.

Regretfully, COPW is NOT supportive of TUCP's position of seeking a P60 across the board wage hike nor KMU's demand for a P125 wage hike.

REMEMBER, BY HELPING THE POOR, WE ARE HELPING OURSELVES, OUR PEOPLE AND OUR NATION.

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW/

COPW CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

We will appreciate getting feedback from you.
Text 0917-8103363 if you agree or have any comments on the COPW position. Thank you.

Pinoy yacht crew home after release

THE SIX FILIPINO CREW MEMBERS who were taken hostage last week when pirates seized a French luxury yacht off Somalia arrived from Paris yesterday to a warm welcome by foreign affairs officials and their families.

The six—Marisol Abalos, Gary Gaingan, Gilbert Glorioso, Victor Sabenal, Alexander Ebb and Domingo Rompang—said they believed they were rescued by French forces.

Glorioso, a waiter, said they were informed of the fire fight when they were turned over to the French Navy on April 11.

France sent an elite commando force to East Africa after pirates seized the Le Ponant in the Gulf of Aden on April 4. The boat carried no passengers but 30 crew members, 22 of them French. The pirates sailed the boat and its crew to Somalia and held them for a week.

Sabenal said they had no idea they had been freed until they saw their captain talking with French Navy officers.

"On the morning of April 11, we were told to go to the top deck. Our captain was talking with Navy officers. They were talking in French. We did not know what they were talking about but we were later told that there was an encounter," Glorioso said.

He said that 45 minutes later, they were told to board a French Navy ship. They were flown back to Paris with other crew members on Monday.

Esteban Conejos Jr., undersecretary for migrant workers affairs who was at the airport yesterday to welcome the seamen, said it was a "blitzkrieg" operation that obtained the safe release of all the crew members.

The Filipino seafarers said they would return to their ship after a brief vacation.

The government has asked the Magsaysay Maritime Agency, the local manning agency, to allow them a brief vacation here while their ship is undergoing repairs, Conejos said.

According to Glorioso, 11 heavily armed men in two fishing boats boarded their yacht on April 4. He said the crew was herded into separate rooms.

"First, there were 11, then they picked up one. Still later, there were 30 of them on board," he said.

The pirates looked for an interpreter to relay their $3-million ransom demand, he said.

French officials said no public money was used to pay a ransom. The French shipping company CMA-CGM, which owns the 288-foot Le Ponant, hailed the end of the standoff but released no details about the military operation.

Last Friday, French President Nicolas Sarkozy issued a statement thanking the French Army and other agencies "that allowed a quick end" to the hostage-taking.

A Paris judge said on Tuesday six Somali pirates would be brought to France to face trial.

French troops arrested the pirates in the Somali desert on Friday after they had handed over the hostages and fled with the ransom. Those arrested were part of the pirate crew, and some of the ransom was recovered from them.

"The six men will be transferred to Paris tonight or Wednesday night," said a French judge, who spoke on condition of anonymity, adding that the men were being held by French troops in Djibouti and would be flown to France.

French officials said last week France had the right to try the pirates, believed to be Somali fishermen, but some experts have questioned the legality of such a trial.

Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf had agreed to let French troops bring the pirates to France for trial, the judge said. *Cynthia D. Balana and Reuters*

Pope on 1st US visit; Bush gives unusual welcome





Courting Catholics

Plenty of differences

To reignite faith

Pedophiles excluded

New accusations

'American model'

'UN needs spiritual support'



Rice before oil; Biazon seeks biofuels suspension

Clear guidelines, please

Strike a balance

More farm lands

Like many Pinoys, GMA 'follows up' at gov't office

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday did what millions of Filipinos do who have some business with a government agency—she "followed up."

The President returned to the Bureau of Customs office in Manila's Port Area to check on the progress of her instructions given two days earlier to officials handling the P30-million wheat flour shipment from China that was seized for not meeting the standards of the Consumer Act.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales had explained the shipment was considered contraband because the flour bags did not indicate the date of manufacture and expiry.

Rattled

On Ms Arroyo's return yesterday, the customs official who attended to her on Monday got so rattled, he addressed her as "your honor" before catching himself and quickly correcting, "Madame President."

And as she had done two days earlier, Ms Arroyo showed her impatience at the way the cases were moving and pressed the customs officials to move faster.

As food costs, particularly rice, have continued to rise, the President has vowed the government would go after hoarders and smugglers and that she would personally "lead the charge" against those who would take advantage of the situation.

On Monday, the President stayed at the BOC office for two hours to make sure the officials completed the paper work for the filing of cases against the importer of the wheat flour and the customs personnel who inspected the shipment.

She wanted the cases filed in time for Tuesday's tailor-made hearing which was held at the Department of Justice.

Cases of smuggling were filed on Tuesday against Rubills International, Inc., importer of the 55 vans of wheat flour seized on Monday, and administrative charges were filed against the three customs employees who had inspected them.

Yesterday, before flying to Ilagan City at noon, the President decided to stop at the BOC office to follow up on the cases.

Morales informed her the bureau had begun forfeiture proceedings against Rubills.

"So we'll just have to wait until end of the month for the forfeiture," Morales told Ms Arroyo.

Morales then asked Willie Santamaria, chief of the BOC's Internal Inquiry and Prosecution Division, to update the President on the cases of the customs personnel.

Santamaria was the same person whose shoulder the President looked over as he prepared the administrative cases on his laptop.

When Ms Arroyo asked him when the hearing would be held, he replied, "Your honor, ay, Madame President, it will be set by the prosecution and litigation division of the legal services."

"Why won't you call them now, why won't you call them now?" the President Arroyo repeatedly asked him.

Only after the President was assured the subpoenas for the customs personnel would be issued "immediately" did she stand up and motion that she was ready to leave.

Wheat importer rapped over sugar

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS YESTERDAY seized P32-million worth of sugar allegedly imported into the country illegally by the same company that brought in P30-million worth of wheat flour that did not conform to local laws earlier this week.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said agents of the bureau intercepted 10 container vans loaded with sugar from Singapore at the Port of Manila.

Morales noted the importer of the sugar, Rubills International Inc., was the same company the BOC had filed criminal charges against for bringing in P30-million worth of wheat flour which did not meet Bureau of Food and Drug requirements that the manufacturing and expiry dates be printed on the sacks.

The customs chief said operatives of the bureau's Run After The Smugglers (RATS) team led by agent Omar Thorton had placed the shipment under surveillance after receiving information a shipment declared as soya beans would be arriving at the port.

"This is another case of technical smuggling committed by Rubills," Morales said, adding that the importer lacked the necessary permit to import the sugar.

President Arroyo returned to the BOC yesterday to personally follow up on the status of the wheat flour she inspected on Monday. (See related story on this page.)

Morales told the President Port of Manila Collector Horacio Suansing had signed the order of forfeiture for the containers of wheat flour imported by Rubills. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Abadilla 5 conviction affirmed



DAY OF RECKONING

Sufficient in itself

No motive

Treachery, premeditation

Not impossible

What Went Before

Death sentence

Lawyers laugh off man who claims to be fugitive Faeldon

Never criticized

ABS-CBN reaction

Part of a play

Palace, not Senate

Documents

How he escaped

P1-M reward

Rice bags kick off Erap 3-day birthday bash

His main priorities

'PJEE 2010'

Pressing flesh

Surprise from children

3 years later, parents still hoping to collect tuition

By Alcuin Papa

Disrupted lives

Noli hails signing of $436M in deals

Filipino is new nuncio

Soap making, marketing techniques at UP

OPINION

Tough decision

EDITORIAL

Soap opera

FOREIGN COMMENT



Saffron sunsets

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Survey says

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Pride of place

Political Tidbits



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

What color is your rice?

Human Face



Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Resistance isn't futile

The Long View



Manuel L. Quezon III

Beyond the news

Young Blood

Jamess Ann J. Illao

Notice to Youngblood contributors

They Said

Failure equals crime?

No jail for rice smugglers

With Rizal as model, RP can truly prosper

LETTERS

RP has no jobs for scientists

Too vocal ex-SC chief going out-of-bounds

Jeepney group using road as terminal

With so much talents and skills, why is RP still a basket case?

Across the NATION

NEWSBRIEFS

■ TACLOBAN CITY

NIA allots P210M to restore irrigation

[illegible]

■ PUERTO PRINCESA CITY

21 Viet poachers caught, flee cops in Palawan

[illegible]

■ DIGOS CITY

Cops still clueless on minister's murder

[illegible]

■ VICTORIAS CITY

2 dead, 4 injured in Negros fire

[illegible]

■ BACOLOD CITY

Woman dies after ambulance hits her

[illegible]

Atienza OKs trees cut in 169-ha Kanlaon area

[illegible]

Nueva Ecija rice millers stop buying palay as costs get steep

SAN JOSE CITY—RICE mill owners have stopped buying palay (rough rice), citing diminishing capital and the low demand of milled rice from outlets, particularly in Metro Manila.

[illegible]

Slow recovery

[illegible]

Panic buying

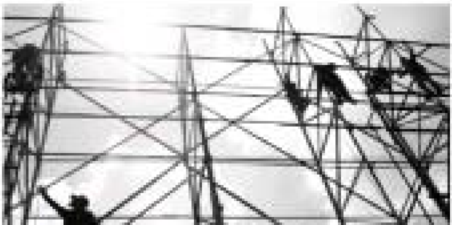
[illegible]

Enough rice

[illegible]



A WORKER [illegible] sacks of imported rice in a warehouse in Surigao.



DAVAO STUNT

Workers of the Davao City engineering office perform real-life stunts scaling a billboard that they are dismantling on orders of city officials.

DOTC solution to Puerto airport heat: 3 aircons

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY— [illegible]

Kin of seized Albay militant to file 'amparo'

[illegible]

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Death, intrigue in island paradise

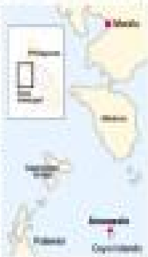


In The Know

Amanpulo Resort

Mystery

Natural cause



Investigation

Marikina police officer defends autopsy

'Public to panic' if …

Govs blame rice traders

By Michael Lim Ubac

Rice czar proposed

Overwhelming for churches

Closer to the masses

NFA to import more rice

Export controls

Hotline …

Legislated wage hike favored

Inflexible

Consultations

Complicity

Bill on P125 wage hike

Business divided

Untimely

Affordable to business

Minimum wage in W. Visayas

Pedal power to save 'dying' Laguna lake; caravan on April 26-27

Vast bamboo plantation

Raising awareness

Foundation envisioned

Caravan route

Caravan's 2nd, longer leg

More Sports on A21-A24

Late SPORTS

Aces slay Dragons; Barako score



Aplus METRO
Editor Ernie G. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

Raid nets 8 men, 20 video 'karera' machines

Parents from 5 QC barangays tip police about illegal gambling

By Marlon Ramos

POLICE ARRESTED EIGHT MEN AND SEIZED 20 VIDEO KARERA machines during a raid on several houses in five barangays in Quezon City before midnight Tuesday.

Operatives of the Quezon City Police District Station 6, accompanied by barangay tanod (village watchmen), conducted a raid on 20 houses in Barangays Old Balara, Payatas, Bagong Silangan, Commonwealth and Batasan Hills at around 10 p.m.

Supt. Constante Agpaoa, QCPD Station 6 commander, said a video karera machine was seized from each house, along with P4,000 in betting money.

He named a certain Jake as the suspected owner and operator of the illegal gambling machines.

According to Agpaoa, the eight men arrested were caught while playing on the video karera machines.

The raid, he added, was prompted by several complaints they received from parents who blamed the easy access of their children to the machines, resulting in poor performance in school.

"A number of residents in those areas, including minors, have become gamblers and are addicted to video karera games," Agpaoa told the Inquirer.

The machines were later destroyed in the presence of media men "to show our sincerity in curbing illegal gambling in Quezon City," he said.

Agpaoa warned that they would launch similar operations in the coming days as they intensify their campaign against illegal gambling activities.

Just last week, the police official and his men swooped down on a house in Barangay Bagong Silangan where they arrested six men suspected of being involved in "jueteng" operations in Quezon City.

Agpaoa said a certain Rosete, who is accused of being a "night-club lord" for allegedly owning several girlie bars in the city, was the financier of the illegal numbers game.



IN FULL BLOOM
A man is framed by bougainvillea plants in full bloom on Ortigas Street near Greenhills, San Juan.

5 men tagged in beverage firms' robberies

Libel case vs Archbishop Cruz is persecution

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo



FORMER elections chief Benjamin Abalos in front of his newly opened "Ben's Burger" on Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City.

It's his turn to do the grilling

Accident, repairs stall Edsa traffic

Leviste aide's wife takes stand

QC to open waste mart on Earth Day

METROBRIEFS

Lolit Solis, editor post bail in libel case

Fire hits Ever Gotesco building

Cops shoot dead suspected robber

Nationwide strike in Zimbabwe falters



19 Ugandan schoolgirls killed in dormitory fire

WorldBriefs

Indonesian volcano erupts

Flash floods kill 7 in New Zealand

17 killed as train hits bus

Bus plunges into canal; 47 dead

American college student missing in Japan

The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence B. Gomez



A STUDENT ... walks ... Virginia Tech

Oil prices surge to new record of $114/barrel

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES STEADIED WEDNESday above $113 a barrel after setting a new record overnight on growing concerns about insufficient global supply.

Oil surged to an all-time high of $114.08 a barrel on Tuesday after a high-profile report by the International Energy Agency said that Russian oil production dropped this year for the first time in a decade.

Analysts said growing investor demand for commodities—which have performed better than other financial instruments—also helped prop up prices.

[illegible]

AFP

A YEAR AFTER TRAGEDY

Virginia Tech looks back – and ahead

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA—As they struggle to overcome tragedy, the students and faculty at Virginia Tech are banding together to mark their campus' first anniversary of the worst school shooting in US history.

[illegible]

AFP

Congo plane crash kills 33; hurts 80



FLAMES from the wreckage of the plane are seen after the crash in Goma in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo on April 15.

GOMA—A CONGOLESE AIRLINER crashed into a market district in the eastern city of Goma on Tuesday, killing at least 33 people and injuring 80, the government said.

[illegible]

Reuters

Putin to lead Russia's biggest political party

MOSCOW—PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin agreed on Tuesday to lead Russia's biggest political party, a move that will bolster his power after he steps down as Kremlin leader next month.

[illegible]

Reuters

Experts urge new farm methods

PARIS—FARMERS, GOVERNments and consumers worldwide need to revamp the way they think about agriculture to sustain stable future food supplies, an international panel of experts said in a new report released Tuesday in Paris.

[illegible]

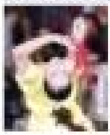
AP

Aborigines used as 'guinea pigs'

CANBERRA—ADVOCATES FOR INDIGENOUS Australians alleged that Aboriginal children were used as test subjects for leprosy treatments in the 1920s and 1950s, sparking a government inquiry.

[illegible]

Reuters

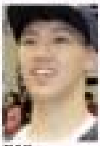


SPORTS



Harbour eyes No. 11 vs San Mig

Ateneo finally lifts covers off rookies, routs Perpetual



CHUA

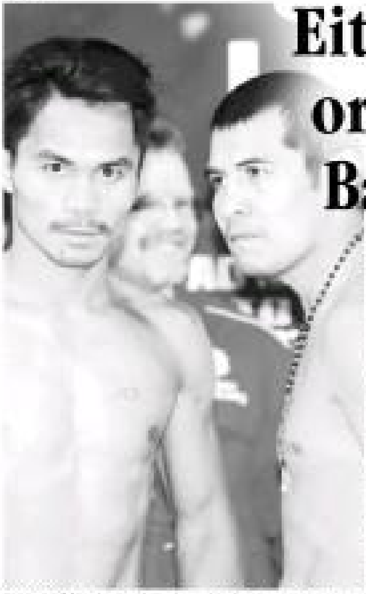


Noosa battles Burger King

Ong tops national bowlfest



Either Pacquiao or Marquez for Barrera return



PACQUIAO (left) and Barrera during the weigh-in of their rematch last year.

Ochoa, Docena clinch World Junior berths

Sportswatch



Kintanar Darts League April 26

Ellinwood tournament dated

Ateneo golf tees off tomorrow

Araneta hosts 75 fights

70 fights on tap at LPC

Villanueva, Dimarucot top badminton tourney

Bernasconi rules wushu tilt



BERNASCONI: Technique

There's no 'sukob' for Yeo, Williams

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

POC tabs Piccio as beach tilt 'chief'

Carlos, Fueg new Jungolf frontrunners in Canlubang



Ikeda books Adelaide golf match play ticket

Veteran Espiritu rules Tarlac GP

Go unfazed by great Olympic odds



AUTS racing squad stretches win run

BIS cagers play goodwill games vs Chinese



San Andres sweeps Pro Open, Pro125



SAN ANDRES

SPORTS

Lakers best in the West



‘US 5 must shake off arrogance’

Knee surgery sidelines Woods



Scrambling Federer start

LIFESTYLE







Patis Tesoro's maximalist flair

WHEN DESIGNER PATIS Tesoro hosts a meal, she does so with panache and a bit of quirkiness.



PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE

Summer squash soup, chilled or hot

D.I.Y.

By Nerissa Chiklamni
Contributor

SQUASH AND ORANGE make a winning combination in this nutritious soup rich in fiber, vitamin A, and potassium. Now that summer's heat is at its peak, you can serve this soup chilled (much like a gazpacho or a Vichyssoise). When the rainy season starts, you can serve this soothingly hot.

COOK'S TIPS

Makes about 3 cups



Squash Soup

11 must-have kitchen gadgets

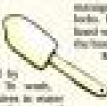
By E. C. Estrada
Contributor

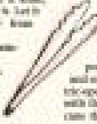
FROM MY EXPERIENCE in the kitchen (I'm 78 and I still do kitchen chores), I've tried to come up with a list of 10 must-have kitchen gadgets. But I came up with 11!













Patis Tesoro's maximalist flair



MONOCHROMATIC



EAT IN a peaceful atmosphere.



PERSONALIZED your gifts.



LET GO.

New dessert destination

FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR a cool summer destination in the city, there's The Ice Cream Bar



STRAWBERRY Shortcake



BERRY Balloon





Returning to the roots of French baking

Legendary barbecue sauce

Red's new menu

is healthy, mouth-watering

Think Open Ravioli of Sea Bass or foil-baked turbot



MILK Pudding of Bresse Chicken Breast



FOIL-BAKED fillet of Atlantic Turbot



CHEF de cuisine Ruediger Lutz



FOIE Gras and Organic Beetroot

Power lunch

CHEFS COOK FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHER

Shrimp with Native Quesong Puti and Sagada Cured Ham

Guess how he gauges if a girl is cool

Shrimp with Native Quesong Puti and Sagada Cured Ham





Shrimp with Native Quesong Puti and Sagada Cured Ham

LIFESTYL





Zong shares Deep-Fried Pork Ribs in Chili Garlic Salt recipe

KITCHEN RESCUE



Deep-Fried Pork Ribs

'Lengua' for NJ couple

Lengua in Fresh Mushroom Cream Sauce

1 lengua, approximately 1 k, cleaned.

SHIRLEY'S PETS BY ROBERT MACASUSON



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA



TULDOK BY PAPS AND TATUM MAMBALING



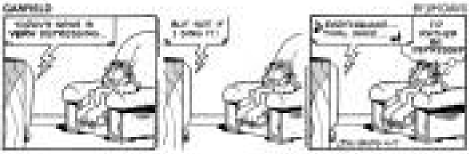
PUGAD BABOY BY PM JUNIOR



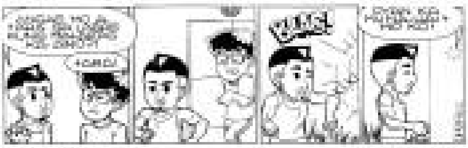
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PANGILINAN



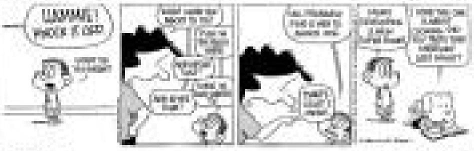
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



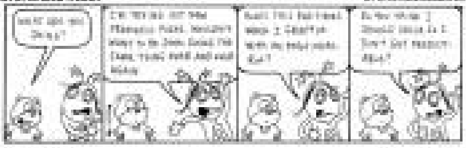
SALAWIN BY DARWIN PEREZ



BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



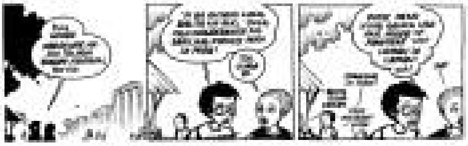
ATOMO AND WEBBY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



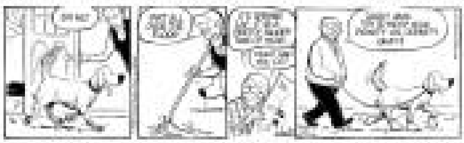
LOVE NOTES BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



SIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

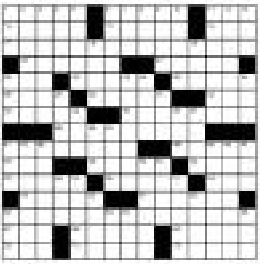


BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

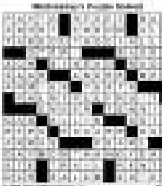


DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



DOWN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		9						
			6	9	4			
		4		8		3		5
	5						4	
	6	1				8	5	
	7						2	
5		8		2		6		
			7	1	9			
						1		

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

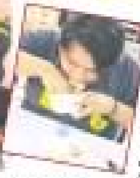
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	3	8	6	4	5	7	1
8	1	5	2	9	7	6	4	3
6	7	4	3	5	1	8	2	9
5	4	2	9	8	3	1	6	7
1	8	6	5	7	2	9	3	4
3	9	7	4	1	6	2	5	8
4	5	8	6	3	9	7	1	2
2	6	1	7	4	8	3	9	5
7	3	9	1	2	5	4	8	6

Ready, set, slurp!







Zong shares Deep-Fried Pork Ribs in Chili Garlic Salt recipe





Mini-burgers for summer trips



Healthy, no-MSG noodles



GOINGS-ON

French Spring in Manila opens

Chef Reggie classes

Food expo in Cebu April 16-19

Fun run for a cause



Photo tilt for Aliwan Fiesta

Home appliance design tilt

LIFESTYLE



Basic guide to summer cooking courses

By Rowena C. Burgos

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN THE ART AND science behind the flavors or gain the culinary skills, a cooking school is just the place to start.

[illegible]

Summer offerings

[illegible]

Banana Cream Pie



BANANA Cream Pie









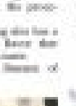






From such strange leaves come wondrous food

COUNTRY COOKING



> When I first tried lemon grass or 'tanglad,' I was taken aback at how perfumed the soup was

Top cookbooks



File consumer complaints online

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

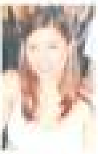
Desperate seekers

Bhutto's campaign funds





STUDENTS of Culinary Institute of Aristocrat



Basic guide to summer . . .





CULINARY students of American Hospitality Academy

SUMMER CULINARY COURSES



RIB PLATES AT P50 OFF

[illegible]



DINING OUT

Summer spa meals

[illegible]



[illegible]

Seaside resto has new offerings

[illegible]

WILD 'SEA-LEBRATION'

[illegible]







PANTALAN'S Seafood Kare-Kare and Seafood Platter

[illegible]



FREE PANCAKES

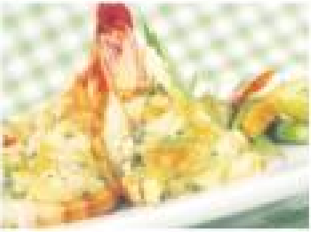
[illegible]

Hot pot

[illegible]

FOOD HAVEN IN TENDESITAS

[illegible]



Free 'tapas'

[illegible]



REFRESHING DESSERTS

[illegible]



Roasted rib-eye

[illegible]

Authentic Indonesian cuisine

[illegible]

Cool cravings

[illegible]

Eat, drink and win

[illegible]

BEST OF KOREA

[illegible]

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ronnie O. Velarde

RP 'Survivor' on GMA 7

AFTER "PINOY IDOL," GMA 7 clinched the local version of the US reality show, "Survivor." The new franchise will be produced by the network's Public Affairs department, according to Nessa Valdellon, vice president for PA. Handled by the same group behind the Kapuso reality program, "Extra Challenge," "Survivor" starts taping in June. An August launch is eyed. Auditions for 16 castaways are on now in Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, Baguio and Manila.



ARNEL PINEDA AND JOURNEY SET RP GIG IN NOVEMBER The country's pride and Journey's new front man, Arnel Pineda, rocks out at the Viña del Mar International Song Festival held in Chile in February, above. The band has recorded a special 2-disc set, "Revelation," which it will promote with a European tour that kicks off in Spain in June and swings to the US in July, with an Asia leg that includes Manila in November. Arnel, who is home for a break, says he is preparing for the grueling life on the road by "living like a saint" —which means staying home and spending precious time with his family.

'Tirador' rules in S'pore fest

By Marinel R. Cruz

DANTE MENDOZA'S "TIRADOR (SLINGSHOT)," the story of a group of petty thieves who operate in the busy streets of Quiapo, bagged the Best Film and Best Director awards at the recently concluded 21st Singapore International Film Festival.

Netpac award

The film, starring Coco Martin, Jiro Manio, Julio Diaz, Jaclyn Jose, Kristoffer King and Nathan Lopez, also won the critics' prize from the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (Netpac), according to a story in The Hollywood Reporter.

"Tirador," which had its world premiere at the Toronto IFF in September, will compete in Granada, Spain, and will be featured in a forum in Berlin next year.

E-mail mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

movietime

CINEMA



METRO MANILA

IMAX

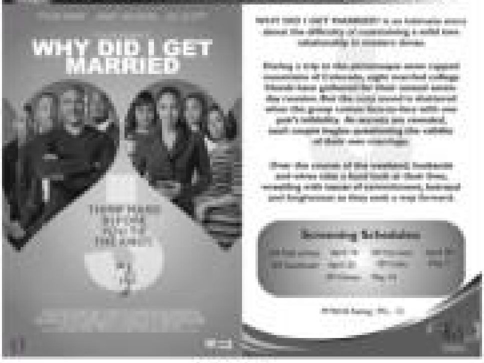
THE PODIUM

MANAY PO 2

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

DIRECTOR'S CLUB RESERVED

movietime exclusive presence



LUZON

VISAYAS - MINDANAO

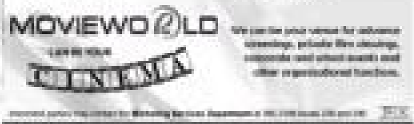
MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	6 MANAY PO 2
2 SUPERHERO MOVIE	7 SEMI-PRO
3 IndieSine: EARTH DAY	8 DOOMSDAY
4 88 MINUTES	9 SHUTTER
5 STREET KINGS	10 NIM'S ISLAND



ERMITA

1 88 MINUTES	
2 SUPERHERO MOVIE	6 SHUTTER
3 STREET KINGS	7 THE OTHER BOLYN GIRL
4 MANAY PO 2	8 DOOMSDAY
5 SEMI-PRO	9 NIMS ISLAND

METRO EAST

1 88 MINUTES	5 MANAY PO 2
2 THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM	6 SHUTTER
3 STREET KINGS	7 NIMS ISLAND
4 SUPERHERO MOVIE	8 THE POSSESSED / DOOMSDAY

NOVALICHES

1 88 MINUTES	3 STREET KINGS
2 SHUTTER	4 MANAY PO 2

PIONEER

1 88 MINUTES	3 STREET KINGS
2 THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM / NIM'S ISLAND	4 SUPERHERO MOVIE



STA. ROSA

1 88 MINUTES
2 UNTRACEABLE
3 STREET KINGS
4 SUPERHERO MOVIE

LIPA

1 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
2 STEP-UP 2
3 STREET KINGS
4 MANAY PO 2

DASMARIÑAS

1 88 MINUTES
2 DOOMSDAY
3 STREET KINGS
4 MANAY PO 2

IMUS

1 88 MINUTES
2 DOOMSDAY
3 STREET KINGS
4 MANAY PO 2

ANGELES

1 FOOL'S GOLD
2 MANAY PO 2
3 SEMI-PRO
4 SHUTTER / HALF BLOOD SAMURAI

TARLAC

1 MEET THE SPARTANS
2 MANAY PO 2
3 OVER HER DEAD BODY

STARMILLS

1 SHUTTER	4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS
2 MEET THE SPARTANS	5 FOOL'S GOLD
3 MANAY PO 2	6 SEMI-PRO

BACOLOD

1 DOOMSDAY
2 MANAY PO 2
3 FOOL'S GOLD
4 SOLSTICE
5 THE FLOCK
6 PRIVATE MOMENTS

ILOILO

1 DOOMSDAY
2 FOOL'S GOLD
3 MANAY PO 2
4 OVER HER DEAD BODY
5 SOLSTICE
6 STEP-UP 2

Reality TV taken to extremes



VIEWFINDER

Nestor C. Torre

Challenges keep couch potatoes viewing and 'entertained'

REALITY TELEVISION has been popular for a decade now, so producers are bending over backwards to keep viewers interested in the now overly familiar format and program type. For instance, "Fear Factor" has thought up challenges that have sometimes gone from shock to shlock, from yucky to downright gruesome.

Other reality programs that have occasionally taken their challenges to extremes to keep couch-potatoes viewing and "entertained" include:

"The Girls Next Door" (Fridays, 10:30 p.m., ETC channel), which chronicles the day-to-day (and night-to-night) activities of octogenarian stud Hugh Hefner's three live-in girlfriends. The harem-like atmosphere ... [illegible] ... of tipling order.

'Auditioning' suitors

The modern-day ... [illegible] ... take a radical change of pace—like, would you believe?, the presumably girls ... [illegible] ... Easter Egg Hunt ... [illegible]

Another reality show, "Date My Mom" (Mondays to Fridays, 8:30 p.m., ETC), isn't exactly ... [illegible] ... "audition" suitors for their daughters, so they can get the ... [illegible] ... of their choice. In the end, however, it's the gals who do the choosing.

One time, however, the show decided to shift gears and make the contenders mothers of gay boys, looking for suitable partners for their sons.

The suitors were also gay, so the "special" episode turned out to be quite a romp, with the "mothers" and "matches" flirting "shamelessly" with each other—to their ... [illegible] ... mothers egged them on.

On a more serious note, "30 Days" is a reality challenge that requires an adventurous soul to spend an entire month in an environment completely different from his own work or lifestyle.

In the episode we viewed, a Christian American immersed himself in a Muslim community—living, eating and praying with its members. Since most Americans are distrustful of Muslims, the mind-blowing "immersion" went a long way in clarifying a lot of controversial issues and resolving a number of doubts and fears.

The 30-day challenge was intense not in a physical sense but in a psychological sense, because it put its protagonist at the very storm center of the complex Christian-Muslim conflict ... [illegible] ... by the 9-11 tragedy.

In another reality challenge, "Boys to the VIP" ([illegible] channel, Mondays, 11 p.m.), the focus of contention is male-female relations—specifically single-hood, seduction and "sexual politics." Male contestants are judged on how effective they are at picking up women and getting to date them, with the most "convincing" stud getting top marks.

The challenge to extreme focuses in Holbrook Ignacio ... [illegible] ... conventions and niceties and become ... [illegible] ... in his more elemental and expedient level.

Finally, "Monsters Exposed" (AXN ... [illegible], Mondays, 9 p.m.), is a compilation of weird displays of "talent" from all over the world, like a man pulling a car with his extra-strong hair, a "mineral" man who charges his body full of electricity and performs bizarre tricks, and a third "extreme athlete" who loves to be ... [illegible] ... all sorts of sharp objects.

This emphasis on crazy tricks and bizarre behavior (children, do not try this at home!) quickly pails to be more than a bit much. Hay, guys, get a life.

Javier Bardem starrers

Instituto Cervantes (526-1482) screens three Javier Bardem starrers this month: April 19, "Los Lunes Al Sol" by Fernando Leon de Aranoa (2002), about five unemployed middle-aged friends who meet daily in a bar for drinking and small talk; April 26, "Mar Adentro" by Alejandro Amenabar (2004), about a man who fights a 30-year campaign to win the right to end his life.

Rico Anunciada

On April 25, Rico Anunciada celebrates his music and his years in the music industry with a birthday concert, "[illegible]" at the Teatrino in Greenhills. Rico will enthrall listeners with some of his favorite original songs, as well as preview some new songs from his upcoming album. Tracing him are The Company, Arnel Ignacio and the [illegible] String Ensemble. Call 724-2949.

'Bingo' needs votes for online tilt

By Marinel R. Cruz



NOBEL JARITOS' "Bingo" needs votes to make it to the shortlist for the documentary category in the Babelgum Online Film Festival, Jamison Toumaix, most honored in Brooklyn.

The 10-minute docu captures on camera a bingo game being played inside a church, with the priest officiating. It was first shown at Rotterdam ... [illegible] ... Film Festival last December.

"Help me win," Jaritos implored in an e-mail he sent to friends.

To vote for "Bingo," download Babelgum from the site www.babelgum.com/download. Click on the link for Films and Festivals community and search for "Bingo."

"If I win, I'll be heading off to Cannes to pick up my award of 20,000 euros from Spike Lee on May 20th," said Jaritos. "I'd love for you to come with me and sip champagne while sitting elbows with the stars."

Jurors

Hollywood director ... [illegible] ... is Babelgum chair and honorary judge. The jury includes Albertha Will ... [illegible] ... International Documentary Film Festival, Rhiane Lall, Indian Independent Filmmakers ... [illegible] ... Association, Joe ... [illegible] ... Shorts Festival ... [illegible] ... president of Widescreen; and Sandra Ruch, executive director of International Documentary Association.

Babelgum is the first festival to feature films of young talents. According to its Philippine entry, its mission is to "promote independent filmmaking and provide a global showcase for budding filmmakers from all over the world."

... [illegible] ... Jaime Johanne Novelli, founding member of the Art Directors Club of Europe, Joe Meoligh, co-founder and ...

E-mail: mcruz@inquirer.com.ph



AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 STREET KINGS	2 NIM'S ISLAND	3 SUPERHERO MOVIE	4 MAGKAPATID OVERLOAD
GLORIETTA 4	1 88 MINUTES	2 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	3 STREET KINGS	
	4 NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN	5 NIM'S ISLAND	6 SUPERHERO MOVIE	7 SHUTTER
GREENBELT 1	1 STREET KINGS	2 SUPERHERO MOVIE		
GREENBELT 3	1 88 MINUTES	2 STREET KINGS		
	3 SHUTTER	4 NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN	5 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 STREET KINGS	2 SUPERHERO MOVIE		
	3 88 MINUTES	4 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	5 SHUTTER	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SUPERHERO MOVIE	2 88 MINUTES	3 MAGKAPATID OVERLOAD	4 FOOL'S GOLD
MARKET! MARKET!	1 STREET KINGS	2 NIM'S ISLAND		
	3 SUPERHERO MOVIE	4 88 MINUTES	5 MAGKAPATID OVERLOAD	
TRINOMA	1 MAGKAPATID OVERLOAD	2 SUPERHERO MOVIE	3 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	4 SHUTTER
	5 NIM'S ISLAND	6 88 MINUTES	7 STREET KINGS	



AT THE MALLS

Glorietta	[illegible] Live at the Ayala Malls
Greenbelt	[illegible] Festival
Alabang Town Center	[illegible] Band Competition [illegible]
Ayala Center Cebu	[illegible]
Market! Market!	[illegible]
Ayala Center	[illegible]
Ayala Museum	[illegible]
TriNoma	[illegible] Live at the Ayala Malls





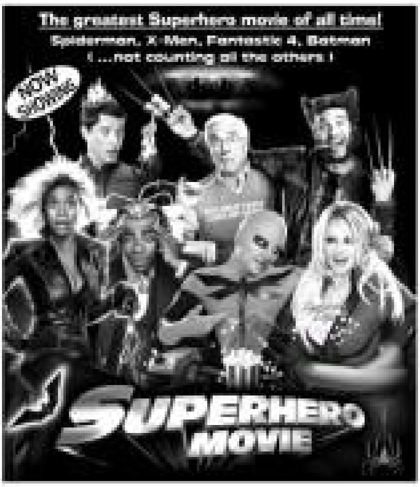


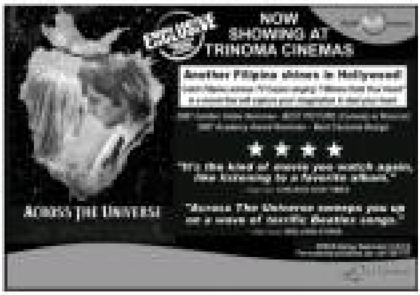
"Thou Shall Not Blink" will have scenes from the ... Canada.

'An entertainer in the art of magic'

This is how Bearwin Meily likes to be called, not 'magician'

[illegible]





Feedback

[illegible]







Sean Kingston in Glorietta tonight

Show Time

'The Lost '80s Live'

Earth Day Jam

'April Earth Series'

Lola at Bo's Cafe

Sarah Geronimo at GenSan



GERONIMO

Luke Mejares at Music Museum

Tonight

Tomorrow

April 19

April 20

April 25

April 26

April 27

April 30



SEAN Kingston



A FLOCK of Seagulls



WHEN in Rome



REAL Life



BARBIE Almalbis



SINO Sikat

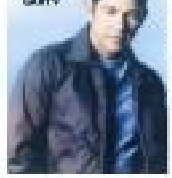


THE COMPANY

Gary V marks 25 years with 'Rebirth'

Spin

Rachelle Ann Go rocks



GARY V

Guitarists galore



Free downloads

Once again, on this isle

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

CUYO, PALAWAN—Between sips of cold beer, debuting filmmaker Dante Nico Garcia notes that little has changed in his hometown—the small, remote island north of the Sulu Sea.

Thus, making a period film like "Ploning," set in 1982, doesn't entail massive reconstruction, he says. "Even the pier looks exactly as I remember it when I was a kid."

There are still no ATMs, no taxicabs, no malls, no newspapers, no McDo or Jollibee. There used to be three movie houses, he says, but all three have closed shop.

Since there is currently no theater on Cuyo, Panoramanila



DANTE and Judy Ann Santos on the set of "Ploning."

producers Gale Gonzales, Jourdan Sebastian, RJ Leyran and Judy Ann Santos (also the lead star) are planning to build the film's local premiere at the shaded basketball court near the plaza later this month.

Cuyo is basically the same, Dante reiterates, except that now there's cable TV until 1 a.m.

"When I was young, a neighbor built a makeshift moviehouse with bamboo," he recalls. "The first TV show I watched was 'VB' hosted by Vilma Santos."

Another enterprising neighbor charged P1.50 for Betamax movie screenings in a small hut.

"I saved my allowance so I could watch 'The Ten Commandments,' 'The Sound of Music,' 'Annie,' 'Jesus Christ Superstar' over and over," he recounts. "I hold merely a memorable outing seen 'Pepeng Shotgun,' with Rudy Fernandez."

Clothes, theater

From there, he was already smitten with moving pictures.

His first course in UP Diliman, however, was Clothing Technology. Then he shifted to Theater Arts. The two courses proved instrumental in choosing his current profession.

His flair for fashion led to his job as personal stylist to Judai, whom he met in the 1990s, long before she became a major star.

"I proudly admit that I don't know how to dress up," Judai concedes. "Dante always makes sure that I look good when I am interviewed."

He also worked as production designer in her movies, "Till There Was You" and "Don't Give Up On Us," and as her stylist in "Oslo."

Cayunon makes a film for his hometown, starring a good friend

When he joined a UP theater troupe, the first person to sit in his hairstyling chair was Eugene Domingo who's also a cast member of "Ploning."

First eye

"Back then, I already noticed that he was creative. I was very impressed with the hairdo that he created for me," Eugene remembers.

It was for a zarzuela, Dante recounts, and Eugene's hairstyle was reminiscent of Gary Oldman's gypsy-style in "Dracula."

Needless to say, Dante makes first use of his eye for lovely things in his debut film.

Concern

Beyond Charlie Peralta's cinematography, which captured Cuyo's raw beauty, Dante also endeavored to incorporate the island's soul in the script.

"I'm concerned because some teenagers no longer speak Cuyonon," he says. "Perhaps if they see a big star like Judai speaking the dialect, even in a movie, they will again learn to value our native language."

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Roundup

'Millionaire' vs 100

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" host Christopher de Leon returns to the game show scene as a contestant in the season finale of ABS-CBN's "1 vs 100" on April 19.

"I'm nervous," said Christopher. He faces 100 mob members for the jackpot prize of P2 million.

Christopher recommended host Kris, saying "1 vs 100" is a difficult show to handle.

Since the show's launch in August, only comedian Rodi and Kamikazee's Jay Contreras—have taken home the grand prize of P2 million cash.

"1 vs 100" airs before "Lobo." KC.



KRIS Aquino

'Deal or No Deal' special episode

AMERICANS will see how the game show "Deal or No Deal" is played in the Philippines when the US program visits Manila from April 22 to 25, to tape a special episode as part of an ongoing 'World Tour.'

In the special episode, Kris Aquino will join Howie Mandel, host of the US game show that airs on NBC.

American contestants will play according to the rules of the Philippine version.



BOYET de Leon and Bobs Manzano